

## Revised RA contracts ignite dispute

Stephanie Purifoy, *Beacon Staff*

Senior Raven Devanney remembers sitting with her fellow resident assistants in a meeting in May 2019 when several college officials were going over new policies for RA contracts. Some of the RAs were sitting in circles, holding hands and crying. Many had their hands raised, facing the administrators in the front of the room.

The meeting welcomed new RAs into the program and reviewed the new contract for the upcoming academic year, which included rules that would have prohibited RAs from working other on-campus jobs, changed the way that RAs were selected to stay over breaks, and eliminated several higher-paying positions in the program.

In the new contract, the college removed the position of senior resident assistant, who would work an extra 10 hours a week in the office and receive \$12 per hour for this additional work. Associate Dean for Campus Life Erik Muurisep said they created extra office hours for students to work in order to provide more working opportunities for those denied the SRA position.

They also eliminated extra pay for RAs living in specialty communities—such as the Film Immersion, Active Living, or Substance Free floors. These RAs used to receive an average of \$200 more per semester. Muurisep said the college wanted to better define the RA position and remove extraneous positions within the job.

Senior Max Straubinger said he used to be the RA on the Film Immersion floor.

“If you’re an RA on one of those floors, you have extra work to do because it’s more of an educational community based on a certain  
*See RA, page 2*



## Women's volleyball claims historic upset over Babson

By Ethan McDowell • p. 8

Carolyn Vaimoso (center) hits the ball over the net in Emerson's 3-1 upset win over No. 17 ranked Babson. • Cho Yin Rachel Lo / *Beacon Staff*

## Emmy winning alum returns to Emerson as a professor

Sydney Havens, *Beacon Correspondent*

When working for local TV station WBZ in 2013, David Wade '95 received a call in the middle of the night telling him to go straight to Watertown—the police were searching for the suspects who detonated two homemade bombs at the finish line of the Boston Marathon, killing three people and injuring hundreds of others in attendance.

When he arrived at the scene, the police were too busy to keep him back from the action.

“I’m like right in the middle of the scene,” Wade said. “There are police officers walking around me with rifles out in the pitch black, and I’m live on television.”

Wade still works as an anchor for WBZ and recounts that night as one of the most memorable of his journalism career.

Wade began his career at Emerson.

In 1995, Wade served as the sports editor for The Beacon. Aside from WBZ, the 23-time Emmy Award winner has worked for publications such as Boston's WFXT-TV, WXXA-TV in Albany, New York, and WRNN-TV in Rye Brook, New York. He returned to Emerson this year as a professor in the Journalism Department to teach the next generation of reporters.

Wade teaches Electronic News Gathering TV News Reporting, a 300-level class in the Journalism Department. The class comprises 12 students who will create six or seven stories for

*See WBZ, page 6*



David Wade '95 won 23 Emmy awards prior to teaching journalism at Emerson.  
Shiyu Pan / *Beacon Correspondent*

## Freshman shows dominance in midfield

Nick Rempe, *Beacon Correspondent*

Before freshman Cali Bruce joined the women's soccer team, she used to spend her weekends in hotels with her club soccer team, preparing for two games after a week of four practices.

Bruce played for Richmond United, which she said is one of the toughest and most time-consuming clubs in the country. Bruce said playing competitively brought the pressure of trying to reach some of the strongest Division I colleges in the country, something she said she was not completely on board with.

“Everyone on my club team was, for the most part, going Division I [or] Division II,” Bruce said in an interview. “So it felt like I had to do it. There were Division I schools I was looking at, but I wanted to be at a place that if I knew I wasn't playing soccer I would still be happy.”

Bruce scored her first Emerson College goal in the team's 3-0 win against Wentworth on Sept. 10. She also recorded an assist in the Lions' 8-0 win against Mount Holyoke College on Sept. 21, their first conference game, and has a total of 3 assists on the season thus far.

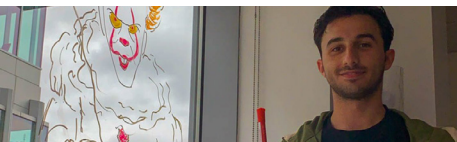
Although Bruce brings strong talent and skill to the field, she said she had to learn a new position when she arrived at the college. She plays center-midfield, but played right- and left-back defender for her club team. The transition is going well with the help of her coaching staff, Bruce said.

*See Bruce, page 8*

### INSIDE THIS EDITION



Fighting against the traditional perception of arts education. **Pg. 5**



Senior draws on memes for inspiration to illustrate 172 Tremont St. walls. **Pg. 7**

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# News

## Spears recognizes statistical discrepancies in Clery Report

Belen Dumont, Tomas Gonzalez, and Jacob Seitz, *Beacon Staff*

The Emerson College Police Department released the college’s annual Clery Report on Wednesday, which a college official said provides an incomplete picture of the college’s crime statistics.

Vice President for Equity and Social Justice Sylvia Spears said the report only pertains to alleged crimes within a certain proximity to campus. The public property section of the document does not include areas such as Boston Common.

The brief states that on the Boston campus during the 2018-19 school year, there were 10 cases of sex offense related incidents. The college found that there were two cases of rape, one case of fondling, three cases of dating violence, and four cases of stalking.

According to the document, there were no reported cases of sex offenses on the Los Angeles or Kasteel Well campuses.

The Social Justice Center sent an update to the Emerson community on April 30 stating that during the 2018-19 academic year the Title IX office received 77 reports of sexual misconduct policy violations. The office only received

eight requests from parties to continue into investigations.

The college took protective measures in 21 of these cases, according to the email. These measures include No Contact Orders, Stay Away Directives, housing accommodations, and classroom accommodations.

Spears said in an interview that a sexual misconduct report must first either find its way to the Title IX office or ECPD for the college to publish it in the Clery Report. This does not include complaints received by Emerson Counseling and Psychological Services, the Healing and Advocacy Center, or the Center for Spiritual Life.

“Clery has really specific definitions so it is quite possible, and often the case, that the total number of reports like sexual assault will be higher than the number of sexual assaults that fall within Clery guidelines,” Spears said.

*“It is quite possible, and often the case, that the total number of reports like sexual assault will be higher than the number of sexual assaults that fall within Clery guidelines.”*

**- Sylvia Spears**

Colleges must release their Clery Report every year by Oct. 1, as mandated by the Department of Education since 1990. In accordance with the law, all colleges, both public and private, that participate in federal student aid programs must publish and make the community aware of an annual campus security report for the previous calendar year.

If two or more categories of crimes are committed in one instance, the more serious crime is counted, according to the official Clery Report handbook. The handbook also states that institutions must include all reported offenses within set parameters, regardless of legal prosecution.

The report does not include sexual assault as a category, unlike the college’s Title IX policy.

“[Title IX Coordinator Pamela White’s] end-of-the-year numbers give a broader scope, and

even the campus climate survey gives a first-hand student report of how many [incidents occur]—whether it’s reported or not [to the Title IX office or ECPD] and regardless of where it happened,” Spears said.

According to the Emerson 360: Community Climate Student Survey, 17 percent of student participants responded that someone has made unwelcome sexual advances or unwelcome requests for sex. The survey also indicated that 12 percent of students said they have felt afraid for their personal safety or altered their daily activities because of the behavior of another person.

“[The Clery Report] might be different because our folks can be affected by power-based interpersonal violence in another community, in another college, [or] in an apartment somewhere, and that’s not going to be reported in Clery,” Spears said.

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## RAs spar with administration over contract changes

Continued from page 1

“The people who are on those floors are now not getting paid extra, but they have to do more work than the other RAs.”

In the past, RAs could volunteer to remain on campus during academic breaks, but the new contract requires the college to choose those staying at random. The college also eliminated the extra pay that they gave to RAs during breaks in past years. Instead, they will get \$30 per day in ECCash to cover food expenses, according to an email sent to RAs on May 17, 2019.

During breaks, the dining facilities are not open, which limits their options to stores around campus that accept ECCash.

Straubinger said the main issue that the RAs had with the new contract was the rule that counted their duties as being 20 hours a week. Students working through Federal Work-Study, Emerson Employment, or Service Work-study are limited to working 20 hours per week when classes are in session, according to the student handbook.

Vice President and Dean of Campus Life James Hoppe said the college made the changes based on the assumption that the RAs worked 20 hours a week on average.

*“Obviously we’re RAs because we care about the students and whatnot, but a huge amount of us are RAs because of financial reasons.”*

**- Raven Devanney**

ask questions.

“[The contract] was riddled with misspellings and grammatical errors,” Devanney said. “It’s so difficult to take that seriously as a legally binding document when it’s like that—but it is.”

Devanney said the administrators at the meeting would only deflect their protests and couldn’t give them concrete answers to their questions.

“It seemed like they were expecting to just tell us something and for us to accept it because they’re the adults and we’re the kids and we have to do what they say,” she said. “When we started protesting about it, they seemed very thrown-off.”

Only a handful of the RAs in the room signed the contracts provided to them in May, Devanney said. However, when the college revised it later in the summer, a majority of the RAs did sign it.

“You could tell that the entire [RA] staff was unified against [the contract changes] which was, in a way, really nice to have everyone come together like that,” Straubinger said.

On June 17, Hoppe notified the RAs via email that they would be allowed to work in other on-campus jobs. Students with work-study are allowed to work an additional 20 hours a week, those without work-study can work 19.5 hours a week, and international students can work an additional 10 hours a week.

“What that tells me is that they were either lying to us about this new law or they weren’t willing to try hard enough to make it work in the first place,” Straubinger said.

Straubinger said this waiting time was extremely stressful for many of the RAs. If the policy around working hours remained, many would have declined the position altogether. This would mean that they would need to go find other jobs and a different place to live.

While the college resolved the working hours issues, the policies about the senior RA position and the break RAs still stand. In an email to the RAs, Ching-Bush wrote that break duty will be added to the weekend duty rotation which all RAs participate in. She wrote that all of the shifts would be assigned during August



Resident Assistant Max Straubinger said he has felt disrespected by the administration’s treatment of RAs. Jakob Menendez / Beacon Staff

RA training and that students could change or trade their assigned hours through the residence directors.

Devanney said this conflicting relationship between the RAs and the administration is not new. She said she doesn’t trust what the college tells her because of a history of miscommunication between the administration and the RA staff.

“Something will happen where the RAs will be treated as if we’re sort of just naive and ignorant and can be talked down to and pushed around,” she said. “And then we’ll push back and clash heads and they’ll eventually do something to settle everything down.”

In the June email, Hoppe wrote that the college’s intention was to provide information to the RAs as soon as possible while acknowledging their mistake.

“In talking with several of you, the level of frustration and hurt was made clear,” he wrote. “I hope you will understand that the timing

of the initial announcement was our mistake, and we sincerely apologize. Please know that we deeply value our RAs; you are all student leaders and a valuable part of our residence life team.”

Both Straubinger and Devanney said they have felt disrespected by how the college treats the RAs.

“I really hope that in the future they start to realize that RAs are very integral to this school and we do a lot,” Devanney said. “They will get better results from us if they treat us with more equality and dignity and respect. Because they really treat us like we’re naive, and they don’t take us seriously until we prove to them that we have lawyers and can unionize.”

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### Corrections & Clarifications

The editorial in the Sept. 16 edition of The Beacon did not include information clarifying that Fraternity and Sorority Life groups are able to charge admission fees if they do not receive appeals funding from SGA.



# Cannabis comission approves delivery regulations

Diana Bravo, *Beacon Staff*

The Cannabis Control Commission voted to approve regulations allowing marijuana delivery and a pilot program for social consumption facilities in their Tuesday meeting.

The commission voted 4-1 to finalize regulations permitting recreational marijuana delivery to customer’s homes and permitting a pilot program for social consumption facilities among other proposals. Although both passed the commission, the legislation necessary to enact them has yet to be passed by legislators on Beacon Hill.

Now that dispensaries may distribute non-medical marijuana, they must make the deliveries between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. In addition, distributors may not keep more than \$10,000 of merchandise in their vehicles at any time.

“Delivery is really important because we’re trying to transition to a regulated market from the illicit market that already exists which includes delivery, and I think we need to be realistic about that,” Commissioner Shaleen Title said after the meeting.

Erik Murrisepp, associate dean for campus life, said in an email statement that the commission’s decision would not affect the

college’s policy prohibiting marijuana on campus.

The pilot program for social consumption facilities includes a two-year exclusivity period for business owners from communities that are disproportionately affected by past drug policy, such as communities of color.

These facilities will sell marijuana and offer a space to consume it on-site. At the end of the exclusivity period, the commission has the option to extend the period further. Since state law does not allow social consumption facilities, the regulations cannot go into effect until social consumption legislation passes the legislature.

“As always, what we’re trying to do is find the right balance between responding to the will of voters that legalized adult-use and listening to the concerns of all citizens, not just those opposed,” Chairman Steven Hoffman said after the meeting.

The commission also unanimously passed a series of regulations on the medical side of the market, including eliminating a \$50 annual registration fee for medical marijuana patients.

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Cannabis Control Commision Chairman Steve Hoffman speaks to the media after the CCC voted to approve delivery regulations. Montse Landeros / *Beacon Staff*

# Students question Treasurer’s motivation behind fee proposal

Chris Van Buskirk, *Beacon Staff*

Executive Treasurer Abigail Semple’s fee amendment that would bar some student organizations from charging participation fees follows a months-long hiring dispute with the EVVYs.

The EVVYs twice rejected Semple’s application to work in mid-level management roles for their 38th production, causing some current and former students to question the motive behind the policy and the neutrality of the executive treasurer.

A current student with direct knowledge of the executive treasurer’s personal interactions with the EVVYs recalled her stating that she wanted to defund the EVVYs in front of a room of people during the spring 2019 SGA elections. The individual requested to remain unnamed out of fear of retaliation for their comments.

“It’s very obvious the reason she doesn’t want to fund the EVVYs is because she holds a personal grudge against them,” the current student said in an interview with The Beacon. “If something were to happen to the funding of the EVVYs from Student Government directly as a result of [Semple], it would be tied to her personal feelings rather than any specific reason with the budget and anything like that.”

Despite some organizations expressing fear, Semple said she is not trying to hurt any specific group. Her job, she said, is to be a financial advocate for the undergraduate class. In regards to comments threatening to defund the EVVYs, Semple said she is working harder to be mindful of what she says.

“I say shit. I’m not a particularly political person,” she said. “I’m not as cool and calculated as previous SGA treasurers have been, and I should work harder to be mindful of what I say.”

Student Government Association officials criticized the controversial proposal over the past week and brought intense questioning during Tuesday’s Joint Session Meeting.

*“I don’t want to burn bridges. I don’t want to start a fight, but I felt that it was brushed off and I think a lot of the more personal aspects were brushed off.”*

- Abigail Semple

The proposal would cut vital funding from organizations such as the EVVYs, Musical Theater Society, the Emerson Green Gala, and Ribbons on the Runway.

The story of the hiring dispute and defunding comments emerges as The Financial Advisory Board plans to vote on the fee amendment Thursday during their weekly meeting from 3 to 4 p.m., after delaying it from the Sept. 19 meeting.

EVVYs Executive Technical Producer Leo Duch Clerici said that, if passed, the policy would hurt the organization and the production quality of the awards show. The loss of money would require the EVVYs to cut down on various parts of the program—whether that be things such as audio or broadcast equipment, he said.

Despite this, he doesn’t believe Semple’s policy is a direct attack against the EVVYs.

“There are a lot of organizations that are going to be affected by it, so I really don’t think this is a direct attack on the EVVYs,” he said in an interview with Beacon reporters. “We would just have to make really tough choices that I really don’t want to do. Especially because we have 300 students working on the

EVVYs.”

Duch Clerici said he was unaware of complaints about Semple’s performance during EVVYs 37 and her experience with the subsequent hiring process.

In an interview with The Beacon, Semple said her experience with the EVVYs’ hiring process left a sour taste in her mouth. During the hiring process, she said the organization did not take into account personal issues she had with an individual in the organization and in her own life.

“I don’t want to call anybody out for anything,” she said. “I don’t want to burn bridges. I don’t want to start a fight, but I felt that it was brushed off and I think a lot of the more personal aspects were brushed off.”

Semple began working in the technical crew of the EVVYs 37th production in the spring

2018 semester after getting involved in the organization through a friend.

A former student with direct knowledge of Semple’s personal dealings with the EVVYs outlined interactions between the executive treasurer and the awards organization that they said further call into question her motivations as executive treasurer.

During the EVVYs Gala of April 2018, the former student said she irritated other crew members after attempting to help out with an issue during the production, recalling that Semple angered a majority of the crew of the EVVYs 37 award show. The former student emphasized that the actions were not fireable, but were rather personality issues that got in the way of production.

“By the end of the EVVYs, people weren’t really too happy with her,” the former student said. “She had kind of really irritated [the] assistant tech manager who was going to become the tech manager the next year.”

Semple applied for the position of tech manager for EVVYs 38 but was told that she did not have the required experience, and was rejected for the first time in fall 2018.

“She wasn’t very happy about that,” the former student said. “I think she kind of got the impression that [somebody] didn’t think she could do it. I don’t judge, but that’s what the qualifications are. They’re pretty objective.”

The current student said the EVVYs rejected Semple because there was a large application pool and the candidates, for the most part, met all of the qualifications necessary for the position. The executive producers for EVVYs 38 opened up the application process one more time during fall 2018.

Semple applied again and did not receive a position.

“I know she was kind of salty about that for a while,” the former student said. “I suspect maybe she had ... gotten the impression from somebody else that she wouldn’t ever be hired for the position, and I think she felt that it was because of something else when really she was rejected based on merit.”

*“We would just have to make really tough choices that I really don’t want to do..”*

- Leo Duch Clerici

The former and current student both said they believe Semple holds a grudge against the EVVYs following her experience with the hiring process.

“[The proposed policy] definitely felt like it was targeted towards the EVVYs,” the former student said. “Anybody who works even remotely close to the EVVYs knows that a good percentage of their funding comes from ticket sales and submission fees.”

During a Student Government Association Joint Session meeting Tuesday, Duch Clerici said submission and admission fees amount to approximately \$25,000. The student award show also appeals for \$30,000 once a year to help fund the program.

The proposal would bar organizations that either rely on a yearly budget or appeal from SGA from charging students to pay a fee to participate or submit content to their events. The policy does not bar organizations from collecting charitable donations at their event on behalf of an outside organization or collect funds that would go into their institutional advancement fund.

Fraternity and sorority life organizations do not receive yearly budgets from SGA but can appeal for extra money. The organizations that choose to appeal cannot charge admission fees.

During the Tuesday meeting, Duch Clerici said the EVVYs would have to increase their yearly appeal to approximately \$55,000—an uptick of \$25,000. It is unclear if other organizations affected by the policy would also increase their appeal requests.

With the appeals account resting at roughly \$225,000, Semple could not guarantee full compensation for organizations losing funding.

*Deputy Enterprise Editor Belen Dumont did not edit this article due to a conflict of interest.*

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# Incident Journal: Barnes & Noble theft, mace confiscated

*The Emerson College Police Department provides the Incident Journal to The Beacon every week. Beacon staff edit the Incident Journal for style and clarity but not for content.*

**Monday, Sept. 16**

A lost lanyard and mace belonging to a student in Piano Row was turned in to ECPD, who gave it to the Office of Housing and

Residential Education because mace is not allowed on campus.

**Wednesday, Sept. 18**

An employee of the Barnes & Noble bookstore reported the theft of a backpack and T-shirt from the store, valued at approximately \$97. This theft is under investigation.

**Thursday, Sept. 19**

A student reported being made to feel uncomfortable while walking on Washington Street in the Downtown Crossing area by a person who was harassing her.

**Friday, Sept. 20**

An officer on patrol found the emergency exit to the Scene Shop unsecured. After the area

was found undisturbed, the emergency exit was secured.

**Saturday, Sept. 21**

Three students reported receiving threatening messages on their organization’s Instagram account after posting a comment concerning gun control.



# Editorial

## Students deserve honest sexual assault statistics

On Wednesday, the college disseminated its annual Clery Report through a campus-wide email. The 57-page-long report details both the criminal offenses brought forth on all three Emerson campuses in the past three years and the school’s safety-related policies and crime and fire statistics.

The college published the report in accordance with a piece of federal legislation, colloquially known as the Clery Act. But under the act, only complaints that fall within a predetermined set of federal parameters have to appear on the report.

As a result, the number of incidents mentioned in the report does not match the number disclosed to campus authorities, such as the Emerson College Police Department and the Title IX office.

The report lists 17 incidents of sexual misconduct in the 2018 calendar year both on and off campus—rape, fondling, incest, statutory rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. However, the Title IX office reported receiving 77 sexual misconduct violations in the 2018–19 academic year, according to the Title IX Access & Equity update sent in April 2019.

This discrepancy exists because the Clery Act presents a very strict definition of what is included under its categories of sex offenses, and the Clery Act definitions exclude many acts of sexual discrimination that the college’s Title IX office includes.

But nowhere in the report or their email does the college make this distinction clear to students.

Out of the dozens of sexual misconduct violations brought to the Title IX office, only a sliver made it through the stringent federal parameters. Out of all the students who told their experiences to someone they thought would help, just a few were ultimately counted in the school’s federal report.

Social Justice Director Sylvia Spears told The Beacon that the Clery Report has very specific definitions, and that it is often the case that the total number of the college’s reports of sexual assault will be higher than the number that fall within Clery guidelines.

We understand the parameters for the report are not in the college’s control—they are federally mandated. But the college was the one who wrote out the pages, detailed the school’s policies, and presented the statistics to the student population.

As a result, the college should have included a disclaimer that made it clear the report did not include every complaint they received.

They should have told students there was a discrepancy between what school

authorities heard and what the report showed. This disclaimer should have been at the forefront of a campus-wide email, and every student should have known what the report does and does not include before clicking on the link to the statistics.

The issue of sexual assault on Emerson’s campus has a long and complicated history. The college is still operating without a lead Title IX investigator, and proposed new federal guidance stalled a review of the college’s sexual misconduct policy last year. Plus, at the end of the spring 2019 semester, the college removed graffiti from the Little Building scaffolding accusing more than 12 students of sexual misconduct. The college also recently formed a working group to review the school’s Title IX procedures; however, The Beacon reported this group will not bring any immediate changes to the school’s policy.

We’ve written many editorials in the past on the school’s handling of Title IX issues—including our first editorial of this semester encouraging students to maintain their activism and hold the administration accountable. We do our

best to bring the student body transparent coverage of Title IX issues and developments, and all we ask is that the administration always make the same effort to be as transparent as possible.

The college has come up short on reporting, preventing, and acting on sexual misconduct time and time again.

But this time, the incompetence directly undermines what a handful of affected students have been through. Even more importantly, it may give students a false sense of security on campus.

This report as it was sent misrepresents statistics on sexual assault at Emerson without providing any sort of disclaimer or clarification from the administration.

*“Out of the dozens of sexual misconduct violations brought to the Title IX office, only a sliver made it through the stringent federal parameters.”*

*Editorials are written solely by Editor-in-Chief Chris Van Buskirk, Managing Editor Abigail Hadfield, Opinion Editor Diti Kohli, and Deputy Opinion Editor Ziqi Wang without consultation from other staff members, and does not influence any stories. Op-Eds reflect the views of only their authors, not The Berkeley Beacon.*

## Editorial Cartoon

by the Editorial Board  
illustration by Ally Rzesza



*Emerson’s free trial of the  
Boylston St. sidewalk has  
expired.*

## Beacon Horoscopes

Written by Dasha German

*Which fall drink are you based on your sign?*

**Starbucks’ Secret Menu Fall in a Cup**

Scorpio  
Aquarius

**Starbucks’ Pumpkin Spice Latte**

Virgo  
Pisces

**Matcha Oat Milk from Pressed Juicery**

Capricorn  
Sagittarius

**A Classy Glass of Hot Apple Cider**

Taurus  
Leo

**Starbucks’ Pumpkin Cream Cold Brew**

Gemini  
Aries

**Water**

Cancer  
Libra

## Letters To The Editor

*If you want to respond to, or share an opinion about, an article in the Beacon, you can write a short letter to the editor. Email it to letters@berkeleybeacon.com. Please note that letters may be edited. Submissions for print must be shorter than 250 words.*

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# Opinion

## Abandoning creative pursuits in the name of success

Grace Griffin

Griffin is a junior interdisciplinary major and The Beacon’s living arts editor.

I started playing the piano and taking painting and drawing classes outside of school at age nine. In eighth grade, I studied art history for the first time and aced my final exam on Italian Renaissance art. Freshman year of high school, I packed my schedule with printmaking and figure-drawing classes.

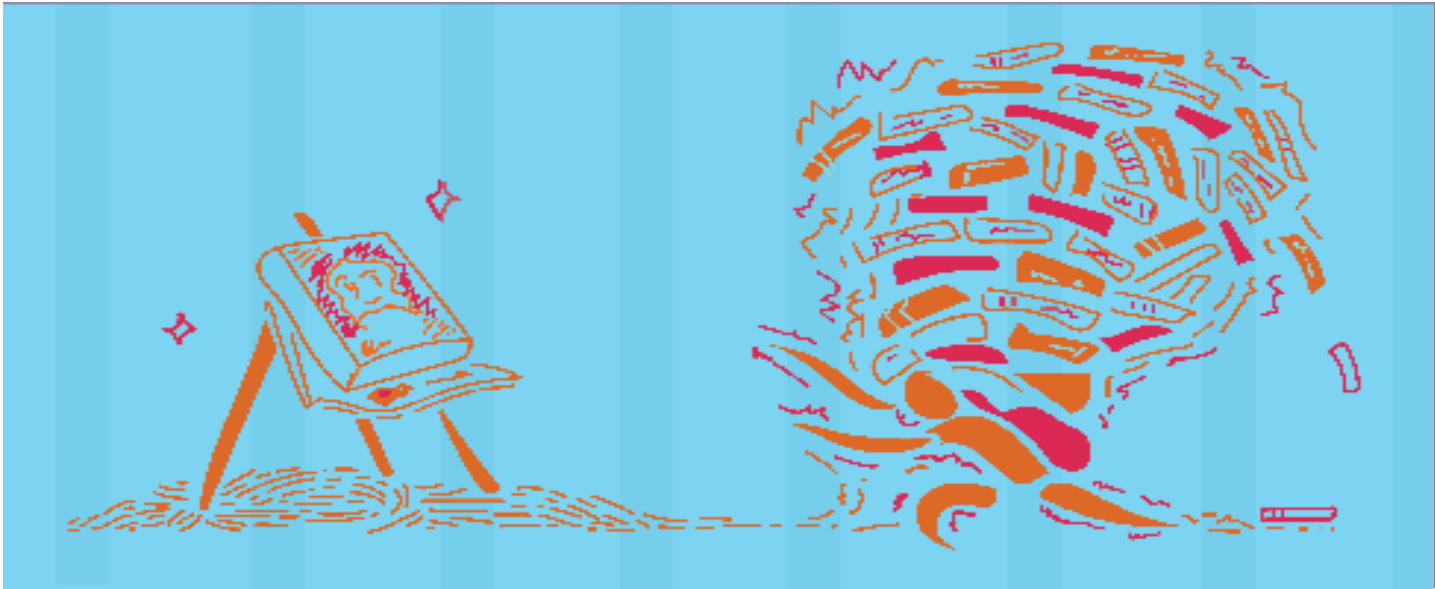
However, if someone had asked 15-year-old me what I wanted to study in college, I would have replied, “Business, probably.”

Children with pursuits that aren’t conventionally “academic” should not be discouraged from pursuing what they love. In my case, and I assume in many others, studying something I didn’t feel connected to or passionate about did not make me more successful—it just made me feel more discouraged.

After freshman year of high school, I never took another art class. I quit my piano and visual art lessons to focus on my schoolwork. Even though I loved and thrived in my art classes, I still filled my schedule with more “beneficial” classes, like Advanced Placement and honors-level math and sciences. I didn’t excel in upper-level STEM classes at the age of 16, and I felt unintelligent because I couldn’t do calculus. My brain just worked in a different way.

From a young age, the programming at my school subtly told me that pursuing the arts as more than a hobby would be detrimental to my academic life. In sixth grade, my school severely cut our language department and music offerings. They pared down the language department to offer only Spanish, and music classes became only extra-curricular activities. The atmosphere of my high school did not help my feelings of discontent in what was “accepted” to study either—my school offered over 10 STEM classes in the AP curriculum, but only four in arts and humanities.

Since the financial crisis of 2008, over 80 percent of schools nationwide have suffered budget cuts, which have affected mostly arts and humanities programs. Additionally, with the introduction of Common Core learning



“Children with pursuits that aren’t conventionally “academic” should not be discouraged from pursuing what they love.”

Illustration by Ally Rzesza / Beacon Staff

standards in 2010, these programs began to be seen as less important by school districts and were often cut. According to The Quad, “Music and other fine arts ‘electives’ are often the first to go.”

Art history and English consistently top online listicles of “useless degrees,” because capitalism deems anything not profitable as useless. I come from a lower-income family, so I understand the value of securing a profitable job post-graduation. As a high schooler, I saw a business degree as a safe option because it made money. A financial analyst in Boston makes an average salary of \$65,000 per year according to Glassdoor, while a professional with an English degree typically makes around \$36,000 as reported by the National Association of Colleges and Employers. But I had a hard

time reconciling this reality with my creative passions.

In reality, art education is vital to the success of students pursuing any field, and it must continue to be funded and uplifted nationwide.

I ultimately decided to major in journalism, hoping I could fulfill my creative desires through writing and still enter a respectable industry. I wasn’t happy with my studies after a year in the program, but it took me another semester of sitting through classes I didn’t enjoy before I could justify switching my major. The negative beliefs around artistic fields were so ingrained in my psyche that I felt like I was sabotaging my future career prospects by giving up journalism to study art history instead.

That thought wasn’t necessarily true—there are career prospects in artistic fields. I interned

at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum over the summer and met so many people who studied art history and built a career from it. Entry-level jobs in an art museum can earn around a \$40,000 yearly salary. And even if jobs in these fields make less money yearly, they shouldn’t be written off as “useless.” Now, I see passion and happiness as a greater success than monetary value.

A year following my major switch, I am happier than I ever was studying journalism. I genuinely love my art history classes, and I finally feel curious and intellectually stimulated again. I stopped creating art for years, and rediscovering that creativity was difficult and took some time. I wasn’t used to flexing that muscle because I had repressed it for so long, but this year I’ve finally gotten back into painting, linocut printmaking, and drawing. I’ve also shaped my courses around those interests—this semester, I signed up for my first visual art class since I was 15.

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*“The programming at my school subtly told me that pursuing the arts as more than a hobby would be detrimental.”*

## Patriotic language in class leaves international students behind



“I mostly stayed silent because I found myself unable to join discussions about how the case can affect “our” society and “our” legal system” • Illustration by Ally Rzesza / Beacon Staff

Eliza Fu

Fu is a sophomore journalism major and an opinion columnist for The Beacon.

During the beginning of my first semester at Emerson, Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh and his alleged sexual misconduct were all over the news. As a result, my journalism class discussions were centered around the case for a good two weeks. We talked about publications’ reporting on the case and how the case would affect the Justice’s candidacy and the country.

I still remember that, during those weeks, I tried hard to understand the conversation in class. For someone who is neither interested in nor familiar with American politics, it was a tough time. I mostly stayed silent because I found myself unable to join discussions about how the case can affect “our” society and “our” legal system, because I could not relate to this

feeling of togetherness.

I find that lots of classes at Emerson are centered around an American context like this, and professors here tend to use such language in classes. Once, when I asked a professor for his opinion on internet hate comments, he told me, “In our country, we have the freedom of speech.” This answer was not necessarily a bad thing. But exclusive language like this always makes me feel the distance between myself and other Emerson students, reminding me of my starkly different nationality and the fact that I’m currently in a foreign country.

In that same journalism class last year, alongside my participation grade of the month, my instructor also left this comment: “Please speak up in class. It’s OK to write down your thoughts beforehand if it helps. Asking a question is also a way to contribute.”

Overall, universities and colleges need

to abandon this stereotypical perception of international students and amend their approach to teaching students from around the world.

I find that it is common for professors to take the silence and inactivity of international students as a sign of being shy or having language barriers. In general, people usually think of international students, especially students from East Asia, as passive learners who were never taught to be outspoken. However, such a concept has become a stereotype and has misled both professors and schools.

In addition, one of the most common issues specific to international students is their “foreign accent and other language-related matters,” according to the National Education Association. It’s true that students who learn English as a second language often experience some sort of language barrier when attending English-dominated schools. But students are here to gain knowledge, rather than perfecting a language. Therefore, universities and colleges should put more effort into helping students absorb knowledge and helping professors to deliver this information in a better way.

However, as the population of international students increases, our proficiency in English should not be regarded as the only issue that may impact class participation. Before coming to the U.S., international students need to score decently well on an English language test, like the TOEFL and IELTS, and be tested for college admissions via the SAT and ACT. The pedagogies for international students provided by most colleges are out of date and lead to mutual misunderstandings rather than intercultural dialogue.

Professors should encourage international students to be braver to talk in class, but they should also be mindful of how their class discussion topics are perceived by students from around the world. It would be nice to avoid the frequent use of phrases like “our country” and “our history” that might exclude international students from class conversations. Encouraging students to share their experiences and inserting comparison into class conversations are also good ways to be inclusive.

Riddhima Dave, my friend who is an international student from India, told me she also experienced the same thing. She said that, in her journalism classes, professors are always asking students to read national or local news to try to understand their implications. However, she has often found herself not being able to answer questions about this work because she is not from the U.S.

In reality, the best way to benefit both domestic and international students is to bring intercultural conversation into the classroom. Giving domestic students the chance to engage in cross-cultural conversations with international students would improve the learning experience for everyone.

To help international students participate more, Emerson should be working more on building an inclusive campus community and diverse class environment where international students and their experiences are valued and included. It is not just about helping students improve speaking and learning skills, but also about making them feel like their voice matters.

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*“It would be nice to avoid the frequent use of phrases like ‘our country.’”*



# Living Arts

## He’s Got Spunk: How I fell in love with the guy that choked me



Gary Sowder is a junior visual and media arts major and The Beacon’s sex columnist.

One night last semester I popped some melatonin, cranked the air conditioning, and loaded up my essential oil diffuser with a hefty amount of lavender, when suddenly my phone buzzed to life from across the room. It displayed the text, “wyd,” which, when sent at one in the morning, is the more cordial way of saying, “Have sex with me.”

The text came from a Harvard guy I had been playing phone tag with for the past two weeks. I sighed, but being in my early twenties, I knew better than to turn down sex. So, I leapt off my bed, reminded myself that melatonin is 90 percent placebo, and quickly washed my butthole—I believe Amy Schumer called this method “the Tinder swipe” in a Saturday Night Live skit. I then hopped on the Red Line, and in about fifteen minutes—or about three spins of Tori Amos’ “Cornflake Girl”—I arrived at Harvard Square.

After meeting at the train station, the guy quickly led me into his dorm room. He asked me

*“I was smitten. I thought about him on the T ride home. I thought about spending time wiht him fully clothes, and outside of his bedroom. I started to think this could be the beginning of something”*

how my day was, I did the same, and suddenly he was on top of me. As we passionately dry-humped, I felt his hand slowly drift up towards my face until he stopped and loosely wrapped it around my neck. Now, I’m not much of a BDSM geek, but my mom did teach me never to half-ass anything, so I thought, if you’re going to choke me you better choke me—hence why I grabbed his arm and pushed it harder down on my neck.

I woke up the next morning in a daze until I saw him. He told me I did amazing and said he didn’t mind that I spent the night. Before I could thank him, he asked if I wanted any coffee and offered me half of a S’mores Pop Tart—freshly toasted.

Needless to say, I was smitten. I thought about him on the T ride home. I thought about spending time with him, fully clotheds, and outside of his bedroom. I started to think this could be the beginning of something. Anytime I wanted to hook up with someone I texted him, and if he didn’t respond, I didn’t text anyone else. I mean, if I could have good sex with this guy, why should I go seek it out with someone else?

Wrong. Unbeknownst to me, I had just fallen victim to one of the most pernicious phenomena on the planet: I had been dickmatized. According to Urban Dictionary, being dickmatized is “when you think you’ve fallen in love with the guy, when you’ve actually just fallen in love

with the dick.” Somehow, through the sheer power of this guy’s penis—and his hand and his mouth—he had convinced me that he was the one. How could I have been so foolish? How could this have happened to me?

As RuPaul once said, “We, as gay people, get to choose our families.” Growing up I was constantly bombarded with messages that I was not normal and that whatever society deemed normal—marriage, children, a used Honda Odyssey—was not attainable for me. So, I spent most of my young life seeking out other outcasts. Sometimes this resulted in lifelong friendships, and other times it pushed me into relationships too quickly. Psychologist Lauren Costine calls this the “urge to merge,” and it stems from the 1950s and 60s when queer people primarily existed in secrecy. If you found your chosen family, you kept them by your side.

There’s also a fair bit of science behind why people get feelings of love and lust confused with each other. Psychologist Loretta Breuning explains that when two people have sex, oxytocin is released in the brain. Oxytocin is not only released during sex but also childbirth, and when someone first thinks that they’re falling in love. The moments right after sex—or as Breuning refers to it, “lovemaking”—are when oxytocin is highest in the bloodstream, so it’s incredibly easy to mistake these feelings of post-coital bliss for true love. By Breuning’s

*“I spent most of my young life seeking out other outcasts. Sometimes this resulted in lifelong friendships, and other times it pushed me into relationships too quickly.”*

logic, it’s only natural that I would accidentally fall madly in love with someone who choked me like I was Bart Simpson.

I know that I’ve made it seem like all queer people are doomed to fall in love with everyone they shag, but have no fear—I have a simple solution to getting dickmatized: have sex. With anyone else. Open Grindr, or for my ladies, Her. Get that person out of your head and remind yourself that you are not only desirable to them but to many other people. If you meet someone whom you connect with sexually, great! Don’t get me wrong, sex is incredible, but when we start to confuse lust for love, it becomes unhealthy. It’s a crutch, like coffee, Cool Ranch Doritos, or the sweet succulent taste of a mint Juul pod—it’s a joke, Mom.

In addition to going out and getting laid, you should spend time with your friends, call your mom, see a movie. Surround yourself with people who care about you—and yes, that includes yourself. Never forget that there are people out there who already love you. It’s wonderful to go out and meet someone, sexually or romantically, but don’t lose sight of all the love you already have around you.

*Editor-in-chief Chris Van Buskirk did not edit this article due to conflict of interest.*

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## WBZ news anchor joins journalism department

Continued from page 1

Students in his class are held to the same standards as professionals in the field, Wade said. Students pitch their story ideas, shoot, write, and edit their own work, then present their stories to the class.

Wade grew up in Tewksbury watching WBZ with his family and said he particularly enjoyed the sports segments. From then on, whenever playing sports or games with others, Wade would become their personal announcer.

“I always loved being the voice in front of people,” Wade said. “When I was playing basketball out front with my friends, I was always like, ‘Wade has the ball, Wade shoots!’ When we had family holidays and we were playing Trivial Pursuit I’d always be announcing it with a wooden spoon.”

After finding his love for broadcasting, Wade set his sights on Emerson’s journalism program. Wade recounted sitting in The Berkeley Beacon office late at night, listening to music, laughing with staff, and trying to put together the newspaper, citing these memories as some of his favorites as a student at Emerson.

“One thing that sticks out from my time at Emerson was getting to meet people at The Beacon that maybe I wouldn’t have normally had a chance to get close with, because they were print journalism majors and I was broadcast journalism,” he said. “So I got to meet some really awesome people.”

Wade also collaborated with other broadcast journalism majors while in school. He commuted to school by car, which allowed him

*“I always loved being the voice in front of people”*  
**-David Wade**

to drive with his friends around Boston to cover stories.

“Me and my other friends from my class would constantly take my car out to go shoot stories,” he said. “I remember driving down to Foxborough to shoot stories inside the Patriots’ locker room.”

Following his graduation, Wade gained more experience as a reporter while working at New York TV stations such as WRNN-TV and WXXA-TV. He moved back to Boston in 1998 to work at WFXT-TV, and WBZ hired him in 2007, where he still works as an anchor.

Wade now shares his knowledge and experience in the field with journalism students at Emerson. He said that he has visited classrooms as a guest speaker in the past but always wanted to teach his own class to make deeper connections with the students.

Journalism Department Chair Janet Kolodzy said she feels very excited to have Wade as a part of the journalism faculty. She also said Wade’s writing is well-regarded, which is something the department likes to focus on in print and broadcast classes.

“As someone who values writing a lot, his writing expertise is an added plus,” Kolodzy said.

Krystin Beaulieu, a junior journalism student in Wade’s class, said she believes that she is gaining experience here that will benefit her future career.

“I think it definitely helps that he currently works in the field,” she said. “He’s very open about what we’re going to see, or what we’re not going to see if we’re ever doing what he does. I love this class—this is my favorite class.



Alumnus David Wade has won 23 Emmy awards throughout his journalism career and shares his experiences through teaching at Emerson • Shiyu Pan / Beacon Correspondent

I have an 8 a.m. before this and it’s tough to get up and get myself to school, but I always look forward to this class.”

Aside from the class being enjoyable, Beaulieu also commented on the effectiveness of Wade’s teaching style.

“He always makes sure to tell us something nice about ourselves when it comes to reviewing stuff that we’ve done in class, but also really critiquing what we’ve done as well,” Beaulieu said.

Wade said he is thrilled to be returning to Emerson to teach.

“There is a special spot in my heart for this school,” Wade said. “I feel like the career that I have is because of the experience that I got here at this school. My whole career, I’ve thought that a big portion of who I am is because of Emerson College.”

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Senior turns pop culture memes into on-campus job

Emily Cardona, Beacon Correspondent

The faint scent of dry erase markers constantly lingers in the rooms of 172 Tremont St. ever since the college hired senior comedic arts major Joe Scardilli to create pop culture and meme illustrations on the building’s windows and white board walls.

Jason Meier, director of student engagement and leadership, recruited Scardilli to draw illustrations of his choice in the many different rooms and floors of 172 Tremont. Scardilli’s paid job entails drawing for five hours a week between classes.

Meier said he found out about Scardilli’s artwork through Facebook, when Scardilli posted his very first white board drawing during the summer.

“I was visiting Boston when my buddy took me to see 172 Tremont St., and we found the white board walls, so I drew the Spider-Man villain ‘the boys’ meme,” Scardilli said. “When Jason Meier reached out to me, I immediately said yes because I never knew it would be an option.”

Meier said the main focus for 172 Tremont St. was to make the space collaborative and unique.

“One thing we kept coming back to was the ability to brainstorm on any surface of this space,” he said. “From there it dawned on us, ‘How do people know that they can use these walls?’”

Meier saw Scardilli as the model of showing what students can do with these spaces.

“Joe is someone I know and trust, and I also love his sense of humor, so I knew he was going to do an outstanding job,” Meier said.

Meier said Scardilli’s job description is to be creative and to utilize all the spaces.

“There is a running joke about Joe’s job title, which is ‘making memes for angsty teens,’ but of course that’s not going to fly in the professional world,” Meier said. “The unofficial job title is ‘marketing specialties for SEAL.’”

Scardilli said he grew up with two artistic parents that influenced him to start drawing.

“I grew up drawing and I took art classes for a year,” he said. “I always loved cartoons a lot and making cartoons.”

Scardilli started creating white board art in high school. He said he drew on his teacher’s white boards between classes.

“I have found strategies and techniques to make the process easier, but it is the most difficult medium that I have worked in,” Scardilli said. “Part of that difficulty is because even if you get everything just right and spend



Jason Meier, director of SEAL, joked that Scardilli’s job title is “making memes for angsty teens.” • Courtesy of Joe Scardilli

an hour on just one drawing, in a week it’s going to be gone.”

All of Scardilli’s drawings are pop culture references and memes. The internet and his friends are his main sources for finding popular memes that are circulating through social media. He said he wants to make sure that the students walking by will recognize his artwork.

“Any pop culture references that I think that people would be aware of ... especially here at Emerson, people will see it and appreciate it,” Scardilli said.

Senior comedic arts major Kasey Leibas met Scardilli her freshman year through a group chat on Facebook for freshman comedic arts majors. Leibas and Scardilli officially met in person during freshman orientation and have been friends ever since.

“I saw that his profile picture was of Charlie Kelly from ‘It’s Always Sunny In Philadelphia’ and I really like that show, so we started before orientation,” Leibas said.

She said that after she followed Scardilli on social media, she found out that he had an interest in drawing.

“When we would hang out Joe would just randomly draw cool things on paper,” Leibas said.

Leibas said that Scardilli has major talent and that the art he creates on the white board walls of 172 Tremont St. are inspiring.

“Joe is incredibly talented, and he is definitely going to collaborate his art into his career in the future,” Leibas said.

Scardilli said that his white board art is just a hobby for now, but he would like to have the opportunity to incorporate this skill into his career of writing and acting after graduation.

He hopes his drawings will make the white board walls more interesting for students to look at. He said he also wants to make a connection with his audience and has been writing personal questions on the white boards so students can answer them.

“I really want this to become a communal thing instead of just me drawing and someone seeing it and ignoring it or erasing it,” he said.

Scardilli will graduate at the end of the fall semester. Before he graduates, he said he wants to find someone who is willing to continue the white board art.

“I hope to find someone not necessarily who has the same interest as me, but who is similarly passionate about putting things that they think will brighten people’s day when they see it,” he said.

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Person of Color Column: Pronouncing my name authentically



Diti Kohli is a junior journalism major, The Beacon’s opinion editor, and this week’s POC columnist.

My name is Diti.

It is short and sweet—four basic letters that, despite their simplicity, are curiously foreign to most Americans. I’m Indian, and because lengthy names are common in my culture, people often assume my name is short for something. And of course, during introductions, attendance calls, and interviews, my name is mispronounced, and I’m called “dee-tee,” “die-ty,” or the like.

When I speak up to correct anyone, I always offer them a convenient yet incorrect alternative: “dih-tee.” To some, I reference the pronunciation of Sean Combs’ rapper persona, P. Diddy, for guidance, and it usually gets a laugh. However, in Punjabi, the North Indian language spoken by my family from which my name originates, Diti is said with a heavier “h” in each syllable and a lighter touch on the tip of the tongue than the westernized pronunciation warrants. In English, “dhi-thee” is the closest way to spell it phonetically.

Growing up, I never introduced myself correctly to people I met at school, in extracurriculars, or even over the phone. English utilizes an array of sounds that exclude some of the thicker and throatier vowels and consonants that exist in Punjabi. I assumed, as a child, that the culturally appropriate version of my name was too far out of my peers’ vocabulary. Out of either ignorance or convenience, I thought

asking anyone to dive into a world of new sounds from across the world would be too much to ask. So I defaulted to an easy and understandable option that is picked up more quickly.

In an opinion piece for The Guardian, writer Sadia Latifi shared my struggle to leverage the “real” and “fake” versions of her name. These feelings of fear and imbalance are presumably mirrored by a subject of the 20 million second-generation immigrants in the United States.

“I haven’t pronounced my name correctly in the last 27 years, and I’m afraid to start now,” Latifi wrote. “Pronouncing my name the way my mother intended is more foreign to me now than the other way around.”

This summer, after 18 years mispronouncing my own name, I began saying it the way my parents intended.

I do not expect others to change the way my name flows out of their mouths. The Americanized pronunciation lacks the cultural intensity and breadth my name intends. But, the version spoken by someone outside of Indian origin is not inherently incorrect—it is different. I’m simply correcting myself.

“As someone raised amidst a family of native speakers and who is bilingual herself, I’ve realized that it is a disservice to myself and my culture to mispronounce my name when I can say it correctly”

My parents, whose names are far longer and more complicated than mine, are native Punjabi speakers who were born and bred in the heart of Delhi, India. Throughout my childhood, they conversed in a melded language of Punjabi, Hindi, and English. As someone raised amidst a family of native speakers and who is bilingual herself, I’ve realized that it is a disservice to myself and my culture for me to mispronounce my name when I can say it correctly.

Other than a wary look or two, my parents never commented on my Anglicized pronunciation and acknowledged that I was more familiar with the dynamics of American culture and identity politics than them. But I knew my actions were a way in which I quietly surrendered to a whitewashed understanding of my identity. I cowered away from the name my parents had gifted me with careful consideration—a name that translates to “given by God” in Punjabi. I avoided the true pronunciation of my name to evade a conversation that would inherently separate me from anyone else.

In largely white environments and especially at Emerson, this separation is evident regardless of how I say my name. I look brown. I reference

my family’s religion, Sikhism, which is largely comprised of Indian people. I speak about my history doing Kathak, a footwork-heavy Indian classical dance. I speak in Hindi or Punjabi when someone’s curiosity is piqued and they ask me to.

I am proud of who I am. It’s time my name reflects this feeling.

The transition is odd, to say the least. In college, I am surrounded by a largely English-speaking environment where my mouth is subtly trained to resonate westernized vowels. It has almost become instinctual to say my name a certain way around Indian people and another way to everyone else. Sometimes I can’t shake my American accent fast enough to adopt the authenticity my name and its native pronunciation requires. The process calls for a toned-down version of code-switching, the practice of alternating between languages in conversation.

I’ve been taking notes on the way to approach my name from celebrities who make appearances in American media. Hasan Minhaj, the Indian-American host of the political talk show Patriot Act, starts each episode with a breeze of cultural reality and charisma by saying his name the way it was intended. Bollywood actress and model Deepika Padukone frequently appears in videos on Vogue’s Youtube channel where she pronounces her name correctly. I hope to adopt their confidence.

Occasionally, saying my own name correctly makes me feel out of my depth since I was raised here, deep in the Chicago suburbs rather than in India. But then I realize I hold power over my own identity, and my name is a fundamental part of that—down to the last letter.

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# Sports

## UPCOMING ACTION

**WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL:** Emerson at Emmanuel, 7 p.m., Today  
**WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL:** Emerson at Mt. Holyoke, 12 p.m., Saturday  
**MEN’S SOCCER:** Coast Guard at Emerson, 1 p.m., Saturday  
**WOMEN’S SOCCER:** Emerson at Springfield, 3 p.m., Saturday

## Women’s volleyball defeats nationally ranked Babson

Ethan McDowell, *Beacon Staff*

The Lions ended their two-game losing streak Tuesday night in dramatic fashion against one of the nation’s top-ranked teams. Following the deciding point of the game, the Lions cleared the bench to celebrate their first conference win of the season.

Babson College came into the game with an 11-0 record and ranked as the 17th best team in Division III, according to the NCAA. In this poll, two coaches voted the Babson Beavers as the top-ranked team in the country, the only team outside of the top four to receive first place votes. In their first 11 games, the Beavers only lost two sets in total.

Before the match, the Lions held a 0-2 record in the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference and a 6-2 record in non-conference play.

The Lions have two players in the top-five of the NEWMAC for their individual stats. Junior outside hitter Grace Tepper leads the conference in kills per set and is fourth in total kills with 171. Freshman setter Caroline Bond is fifth in the conference in assists per set with 8.46.

One of the team’s non-conference losses included a match against nationally ranked Tufts University, to whom the Lions lost in five sets. Head coach Ben Read said testing a strong opponent early in the season gave him confidence in the team.

“We have the potential, but we’re such a young team,” Read said in an interview. “We get in our heads at times. I told the team beforehand that I don’t care if you win or lose today.”

The Beavers took an early lead in the first set, but the Lions never trailed by more than four points.

Freshman middle blocker Jillian Kay contributed nine kills and one assist in the game. She said the team’s early success proved it could compete throughout the game.

“When I got that kill within the first couple of minutes, I just thought to myself, ‘Yeah, we got this,’” Kay said.

Kay tied the set at 24, the first of three straight points the Lions scored. They won the set 26-24.

In the second set, Emerson scored on an



Freshman Caroline Bond (left, No. 20) sets the ball for freshman Jillian Kay (middle, No. 4). • Cho Yin Rachel Lo / *Beacon Staff*

attacking error by Babson, decreasing the Beavers’ lead to 16-12. The Beavers scored seven of the next eight points and won the set 25-15.

“I think we kind of lost our energy a little bit, and we just had to find it again,” Kay said.

The Lions fell behind in the third set 15-11 but regained momentum. After three Babson errors and two kills by Tepper and junior outside hitter Albany Alexander, the Lions took a 16-15 lead. They kept the lead for the rest of

the set and won 25-21.

“I think we kind of figured out the secret formula,” Kay said. “It goes back to just having fun and not overthinking it.”

The two teams went back and forth in an intense fourth set, tying the score on ten separate occasions. With Emerson leading the game 24-23, a Babson player committed an attacking error and gave the Lions their first conference win of the season.

In each of the last nine seasons, the Lions’

only other victory over the Beavers came in the 2013 season. Out of the seven losses against Babson, five of them were 3-0 sweeps.

“That’s one of those wins that you can hang your hat on for the season, but we’re not done,” Read said. “We just showed that we can compete with the first ranked team in the [NEWMAC] coaches poll, a nationally ranked team.”

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## Bruce shines in freshman season

*Continued from page 1*

“It’s been nice with the help of [head coach] David Suvak, Kayla [Cappuzzo], Colin [Connolly], Loy [Urbina], and all of them helping me learn how to adjust to this new position,” she said. “But I don’t really care when or where I play—I just want to do what the team needs me to do and that’s all that matters to me.”

Suvak said Bruce’s experienced soccer background and ability to learn is helping her improve in her new position.

“She comes from a really great soccer background, being involved in the club she was in,” Suvak said. “We, as a coaching staff, do things a little differently here, but Cali is showing she is a coachable kid, and a knowledgeable kid, and we’re trying to raise her game.”

Bruce grew up in Glen Allen, Virginia, but said she always expressed a desire to attend a school in the North—and Emerson fit the criteria.

“I’m majoring in sports communication and non-profit communications,” Bruce said. “Boston is a massive sports city, and since that’s what I want to do, it’s really nice to be in the epicenter of successful sports.”

After a visit with Suvak and spending time with some players, Bruce knew that Emerson was the right school for her.

“I spent a day with [goalie] Megan [Rose], [forward] Grace [Cosgrove], went around Boston, went to a class, came and watched practice, and got to experience what the team culture really was, and that was something that I thought was really special,” she said.

Bruce said she made the right choice in choosing Emerson.

“The team has been amazing,” she said. “I feel like we’ve all really clicked even though it has only been a month. I’ve been really enjoying the coaching staff and working with Suvak more this year, and for academics, I love the small classes and the teachers and being able to really connect with my classmates.”

Suvak said he is pleased with the skillset Bruce brings to the team.

“We knew when we recruited her that she was going to be a very talented player,” Suvak said. “She hasn’t disappointed.”

Junior defender and captain Amanda Benavente said Bruce improves on the field every day.

“As a player, she came in strong and showed her mark right from the beginning,” Benavente said. “She also kept improving as each day went, getting more confident with the team and around us, and has such a large skill set she brings to the table.”

The team holds a 6-1 record through its first 7 games and 1-0 in the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference play.

With conference games underway, Bruce said the team is in a strong position to succeed. “The foundation that has been set by Suvak, and the rest of the coaches and captains, should make us successful going forward,” Bruce said. “I’m not worried about my goals, assists, and other stats—I just want to make this team the best they can be.”

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Freshman Cali Bruce (right) totals one goal and three assists this season. Rachel Culver / *Beacon Staff*